

In the Claims

Applicants are submitting a new complete claim set.

Claims 23-29, 31, and 33-34 have been amended. Please cancel claims 1-22, 30, 35-55 without prejudice or disclaimer. Please add new claim 56.

1-22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim ~~22~~ 29, wherein the joint capsule comprises a human knee and the selected tissue comprises posterior meniscus tissue.

24. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim ~~22~~ 29, wherein the joint capsule comprises a human shoulder.

25. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim ~~22~~ 29, wherein during the inserting step, the surgical liquid-jet instrument is in an undeployed configuration and after the inserting step and before the creating step, the surgical liquid-jet instrument is deployed to create a separation distance between a jet opening from which the liquid jet emerges and the jet-receiving opening, the separation distance defining a path length for the liquid jet.

26. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim ~~22~~ 29, wherein the cutting or ablating step comprises positioning a section of tissue in contact with an entrainment zone of moving liquid surrounding the liquid jet.

27. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim ~~22~~ 29, wherein the cutting or ablating step comprises positioning a jet opening, from which the liquid jet emerges, in close proximity to a solid surface within the joint capsule, directing the liquid jet essentially tangential to the solid surface, and removing the selected tissue from the surface.

28. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim ~~22~~ 29, wherein the cutting or ablating step comprises positioning a jet opening, from which the liquid jet emerges, adjacent to a solid

surface within the joint capsule, directing the liquid jet essentially tangential to the solid surface, and removing the selected tissue from the surface.

29. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
inserting a surgical liquid-jet instrument into a joint capsule of a patient;
creating a liquid jet with the surgical liquid-jet instrument;
directing the liquid jet towards a jet-receiving opening in an evacuation lumen of the
surgical liquid-jet instrument;
cutting or ablating a selected tissue within the joint capsule with the liquid jet; and
~~A method as in claim 22, further comprising~~ removing liquid comprising the liquid jet
and the selected tissue from the joint capsule without applying a source of external suction in
fluid communication with the evacuation lumen.

30. (Canceled)

31. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
positioning a surgical liquid-jet instrument in close proximity to a surface of a body of a
patient;
creating a liquid jet in a surrounding gaseous environment with the surgical liquid-jet
instrument;
directing the liquid jet essentially tangential to the surface and towards a jet-receiving
opening in an evacuation lumen;
debriding a material from the surface with the liquid jet; and
evacuating a liquid comprising the liquid jet and the debrided material from the jet-
receiving opening to a proximal end of the evacuation lumen without the need for an external
source of suction; ~~A method as in claim 30, wherein~~
the surface of a body of a patient comprises an external body surface.

32. (Original) A method as in claim 31, wherein the external body surface at least partially comprises human skin.

33. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim ~~30~~ 31, wherein at least a portion of the material debrided during the debriding step comprises at least one of living tissue and dead tissue.

34. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim ~~30~~ 31, wherein at least a portion of the material debrided during the debriding step comprises foreign matter embedded in the surface prior to the debriding step.

35-55. (Canceled)

56. (New) A method comprising:
positioning a surgical liquid-jet instrument in close proximity to a surface of a body of a patient;
creating a liquid jet in a surrounding gaseous environment with the surgical liquid-jet instrument;
directing the liquid jet adjacent to the surface and towards a jet-receiving opening in an evacuation lumen;
debriding a material from the surface with the liquid jet; and
evacuating a liquid comprising the liquid jet and the debrided material from the jet-receiving opening to a proximal end of the evacuation lumen without the need for an external source of suction; wherein
the surface of a body of a patient comprises an external body surface.